



School Communicator

Vision ~ Arbor Heights Elementary School is a community dedicated to fostering the development of lifelong critical and creative thinkers

arborheights.wikispaces.com/Principals+Corner

September 14, 2012

Dear Families,

Our first communication of the new school year! Welcome!

Please look for the Arbor Heights' Communicator every other Thursday to learn important information and messages from your school. We try to communicate information in a variety of ways to keep you informed: Arbor Heights' Communicator, Sunday evening phone/email messages via SchoolMessenger, classroom news from teachers, school website, and PTA news posted on the website, and Yahoo Group postings. If there is something you would like to see in this newsletter, your feedback is welcome.

Arbor Heights is a vibrant community of learners—a place where children and adults work and grow together. Academic achievement and high standards are priorities and a shared focus of the community and staff and are extended to every student. Arbor Heights's diversity is a source of strength and pride and is reflected in the seven different languages spoken, and at least as many cultures represented and celebrated at school each day. At Arbor Heights we all feel fortunate to live, teach and learn in a community where high expectations are valued, all students are accepted and celebrated, and the future and well-being of our children is at the heart of everything we do.

Curriculum Night is an important event at Arbor Heights. This is an opportunity for parents to hear about the school year straight from the teacher. You can experience sitting at your child's desk, learn about instructional goals and see curricular materials used in the grade level. We ask that students remain at home for this event since no child care is available and children may not remain unsupervised anywhere in the school. Teachers will present information and answer your questions. This event is not intended to be an individual conference time. We ask that you schedule a one-to-one conference with your child's teacher at another time to address concerns specific to your child. We split the night to help parents with more than one child in the

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school, or perhaps mom and/or dad can divide their time between classes to experience each child's class. Please put this important event on your calendar—Thursday, September 27th!

- ~Primary 6:00-6:45 p.m.
- ~Principal 6:45-7:00 p.m.
- ~Intermediate 7:15-8:00 p.m.

Parent Coffee I will be holding the first monthly **Parent Coffee** on **Wednesday, October 3rd at 9:15 a.m. in the library.**

Arbor Heights is an exceptional school in which learning thrives. Our mission is for every student to be equipped with the skills to be life-long learners. Our vision is that Arbor Heights' educators, families and community collaborate to provide a nurturing environment that inspires students to reach rigorous yet attainable social and academic goals. Together, we can make this happen!

I consider it an honor and a privilege to be able to serve as your principal, thanks for your trust and support. I look forward to a wonderful year.

Sincerely,

Christy Collins, Principal

UPDATE ON BEX IV

Arbor Heights is currently slotted for a rebuild in 2019. We cannot afford to wait this long given the current condition of our building. Please consider attending a community meeting on Monday, September 24, 2012 at Madison Middle School from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Madison Middle School

3429 45th Avenue Southwest

Seattle, WA 98116

SCHOOL CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER

3rd Grade DanceChance Screening
9:15-11:15 a.m.

Sept 26

~3rd, 4th & 5th Read-A-Thon

~Early Dismissal 1:00 p.m.

Sept 27

~Curriculum Night

~Primary 6:00-6:45 p.m.

~Principal 6:45-7:00 p.m.

~Intermediate 7:15-8:00 p.m.

OCTOBER

TBD

~Monday Morning Monthly
Meeting 9:30 a.m.

Oct 9

~PTA Board Meeting 7:00 p.m.

Oct 11

~Family PE Night 6:00-7:00 p.m.

Oct 12

~No School

Professional Development Day

Oct 16

~Picture Day

Oct 18

~PTA General Meeting 6:00 p.m.

2012-2013 PTA BOARD

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GRANTS

<OPEN>

VOLUNTEERS

<OPEN>

~From the PTA~

Greetings, everyone! I hope you have had a wonderful summer and enjoyed lots of time with the kids! Sadly, summer vacation has come to an end and back to school time has arrived.

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome back our returning students and families to Arbor Heights Elementary and also extend a very heartfelt welcome to our new Arbor Heights families. I look forward to making this school year fun and productive.

Our first PTA meeting is Thursday, September 13th at 6:00p.m. which is kicked off with our annual Hot Dog Cookout. Please look for volunteering sign-up sheets at the cookout. If you have never volunteered before, or just have questions about PTA and volunteer opportunities, please feel free to contact me, or any of our other PTA Board Members. We will be happy to answer any questions you have. There are numerous volunteer opportunities throughout the year.

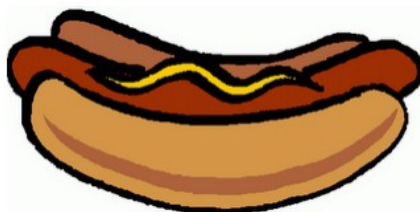
The next couple of months will be hectic for all of us. With the return to homework, after-school activities, and sports, the calendars will be full. We have a lot of things planned for the next couple of months. Please be on the lookout for PTA materials and information that will be sent home with your child. Some things to keep an eye out for would be PTA membership forms, the Curriculum Night, the annual AHPTA Auction, Community Outreach Event, among others.

As always, if you have questions, concerns or ideas you would like to share, please feel free to contact me at chrstnsnjp@yahoo.com or ahptsaboard@yahoogroups.com

Thank you for supporting the Arbor Heights PTA!

John Christensen, PTA President

WELCOME BACK HOTDOG COOK OUT!



September 13th 6:00 p.m.

This is a PTA sponsored Welcome Back Hotdog Cookout! It is a great event and a perfect opportunity to get to know other families in at the school and in the neighborhood. Food is provided at no cost to families and friends. We look forward to seeing all of you at this very special family event!

~More From the PTA~

~Did you know you could earn money for the school just by grocery shopping? All you have to do is enroll your Safeway Club Card or Bartells card with E-Scrip and your qualifying purchases will earn 10% for Arbor Heights. Currently, we earn between \$70.00-\$80.00 every month.

If you are already enrolled please remember to **renew your card before November 1, 2012**. Visit www.escrip.com for more information. Encourage other family members and friends to register their cards as well!

~ On September 17th the **Entertainment Books** AND **Chinook Books** will be going on sale. This year will be a bit different and hopefully easier for the kids. Instead of having to carry around the actual books, there will be samples left in the main office. The kids will be bringing home sales sheets for each of the books on September 17th and will receive their ordered books at the end of the sale period which is the 9th of October once sales money is turned in. These fundraisers bring in approx. \$3000 per/year.

~**Seattle Public Schools** will host three community meetings on September 20, 24 and 27 to **share information and ask for comments about building construction projects to be included in the Building Excellence IV (BEX IV) Capital Levy package**. Once approved by the School Board, the BEX IV Capital Levy resolution will be submitted to Seattle voters in February 2013. **We encourage your participation at these meetings!**

The community meeting dates are:

Thursday, September 20, 6:30-8:00pm at Whitman Middle School

Monday, September 24, 6:30-8:00pm at Madison Middle School

Thursday, September 27, 6:30-8:00pm at McClure Middle School

A LITTLE ABOUT MS. COLLINS

For those who have not met me, let me introduce myself. I was raised in Portland, Oregon and attended Western Washington University receiving a B.A. in Special Education with an Elementary Education endorsement. I then received an M.A. in Curriculum and Instruction at the University of Washington and later an M.A. in Educational Administration and Supervision with a Principal Certificate from Western.

I was blessed with many opportunities to serve children as a general and special education teacher and then a professional development specialist in the areas of mathematics and literacy before becoming a principal. As principal of two large elementary schools, I experienced the joy of leading strong schools with passion, integrity and a sense of 'can-do' collegiality. The last five years of my career in Lake Washington School District I was privileged to return to my 'roots' and serve as a special education administrator. I enjoyed each and every one of my educational experiences and I am honored to be the principal at Arbor Heights!

On a personal note: I have a home in Lake Wenatchee, but live during the week in White Center. I enjoy running, reading, gardening and spending time outdoors. Snow activities such as skiing and snow-shoeing are favorites! The Seahawks, Mariners and Huskies are not-so-quiet indulgences (i.e. exuberant fan) shared with friends and my dog, Hannah.

Exciting Projects Happening at Arbor Heights Elementary

This school year Arbor Heights Elementary is fortunate to have been chosen by CoolMom, a local West Seattle organization, to partner with our school to implement and promote three important projects:

- 1) Creating “**no idle**” zones at the school to promote healthy transportation habits, encourage biking and walking to school, reducing our carbon footprint.
- 2) Developing and implementing a “**safe drop off/pick up**” plan to help improve the pedestrian safety during the busy times at school. We will be implementing a new drop off/pick up zone.

When dropping off and picking up please approach SW 104th Street (the street the school fronts) from 39th Avenue SW. There will be a designated zone just before 37th Place SW to pull in. The safety patrol will be there to help with opening and closing the door to allow for a safe and quick exit from your vehicle. There will be **NO STOPS** other than letting your kids out or picking them up. Then please turn right on 37th Place SW. This will help to reduce congestion in front of the building allowing for a more pedestrian friendly area for those walking their children to school. When picking up, if your child is not waiting there to get in, **PLEASE continue around the loop again**. Please watch for these changes coming very soon.



(See attached map for details of the new plan)

- 3) Developing and implementing a **Walking School Bus** program.

The Walking School Bus entails development of a “drop off” location in the neighborhood. Trained adults would then walk these kids to school. CoolMom pays fees for the “Feet First” program to assess the Arbor Heights neighborhood and determine the safest walking routes for kids. CoolMom provides training, background checks, vests and flags for adults who want to become escorts. More details will be available this fall on the Walking School Bus.



We are excited to be working on these projects that will greatly benefit the children, families, and surrounding community of Arbor Heights Elementary.

SAVE THE DATE!

At the **October 18th PTA General Meeting**, Teri Glaberson (CoolMom Director) will be coming to speak about these three projects.

You can find out more information about the CoolMom organization by visiting their website: www.coolmom.org